

LAMB & WOOL

A Newsletter For The Iowa Sheep Industry / November - 2009

Wintering Rams

BY: JUSTIN S. LUTHER, PH.D.

Winter represents a long period of harsh working conditions and intensive management for sheep producers in the Midwestern U.S. Rams are often overlooked when the breeding season is over and the upcoming lambing season becomes the primary focus. Sheep producers must be able to care for rams under conditions that optimize general health and longevity. This article will focus on nutrition, housing and health requirements of rams during the wintering period.

Since most rams will lose 10 to 20% of their body weight during the breeding season, winter provides an opportunity to recover bodyweight and condition. The nutrient needs of mature rams and growing ram lambs are detailed in Table 1. Larger mature rams obviously have higher energy requirements than smaller ram lambs. However, the continued growth of ram lambs following the breeding season necessitates extra protein in the ration. In most cases, feeding 4.0 to 4.5 lbs. of a ration that contains 12 to 14% crude protein and 55% energy to post pubertal ram lambs will help to ensure continued growth. The nutrient requirements for mature rams are simply sufficient for maintaining bodyweight and thus, may need to be increased for the first month after the breeding season in order to recover lost body condition.

TABLE 1. Nutrient requirements of mature rams and growing ram lambs during winter.

Requirements	Mature Ram		Growing Ram Lamb*		
	280 lbs.	340 lbs.	135 lbs.	160 lbs.	180 lbs.
Dry Matter (DM)	4.7	5.4	3.8	4.0	4.1
Protein (CP)	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Energy (TDN)	2.5	2.9	2.0	2.1	2.2

*Requirements necessary for achieving 0.7 lbs. of body weight gain per day.

Additional nutritional management factors to be considered when wintering rams include:

1. Increasing feed intake by 1% for every 2°F drop in temperature below freezing (32°F). (For example: if ambient temperature is 10°F, a ram normally consuming 4.5 lbs. of feed should receive approximately 5 lbs. of feed)

2. Offering ram specific mineral within the ration or free choice.

3. Maintaining the appropriate calcium to phosphorus ratio (2:1) for growing ram lambs to maximize their growth and prevent urinary calculi or 'water belly.'

4. Avoiding excessive protein in the ration. Excessive protein is a waste of money and may lead to irritation of the sheath or 'pizzle rot,' which may decrease ram fertility in the subsequent breeding season if left untreated.

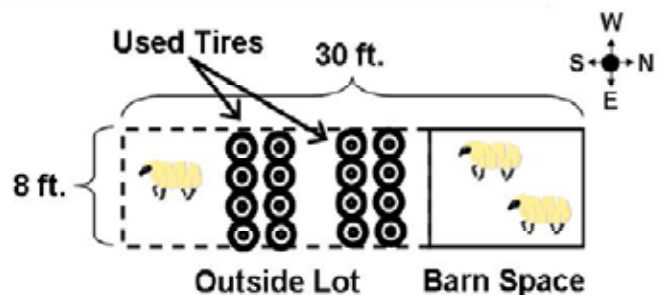
A combination of alfalfa hay and whole corn can be used to meet the maintenance and growth requirements listed in Table 1, but the use of alternative feeds in ram rations can be considered. If purchased under the right conditions, the substantial feed value of these products can be utilized economically. Although sheep will consume 12 times less water



in winter than in summer, a clean and fresh source remains important. Most rams will consume 0.25 to 1.0 gallon of water per day in the winter. As in ewes, water consumption in rams will increase when offered at higher temperatures (>35°F) during the winter.

Many times rams are housed in less than ideal conditions during the winter, which often leads to fewer observational opportunities and untreated health problems. Immediately following the breeding season, rams should be crowded together for at least 48 hours in a smaller area of the pen to prevent fighting injuries. Immediately thereafter, group-penned rams need to be monitored closely. If fighting persists, rams should be re-crowded or adjustments should be made to the facilities. It often helps to place used tires in portions of the pen to prevent rams from charging and hitting one another as shown in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1. Housing facilities for three rams.



Approximately 100 square feet of space should be provided per ram. This allows rams to be mobile and receive exercise when sparring with one another. Rams should be wintered in a dry, well-bedded facility that provides protection from the wind. Housing a ram under dirty, wet and cold conditions during the winter may lead to frostbite and a number of other health related problems.

When rams receive improper housing and nutrition, a number of problems can arise. These can include physical injury,

See WINTERING on page 4

ShortCLIPS by Dan Morrical

Sheep Behavior and Nutrition



This past weekend I had the pleasure to present at the Alberta Sheep Breeders Symposium. I followed Temple Grandin on the program which is a strategic mistake. Temple is world renowned for her work on animal behavior and designing working facilities that reduce animal stress. The key point from her presentation was to select animals for quiet disposition.

A ewe that is calm and easy to work with at lambing has a really positive behavior trait. However, single trait selection for anything tends create other problems. For example ultra quiet dairy cows produce less milk. I guess they are so laid back that they do not eat enough to produce high levels of milk. Pigs selected for extreme muscling have foot and leg soundness issues along with reduced reproduction. If one looks at animals in general those that have fine features and which are small boned tend to be more flighty and high strung. Example of that would be a Border Collie versus a Labrador Retriever. White tail deer versus beef cows would be another example. The most important thing she stated is that sheep generally do not show pain.

I think we all have heard the saying a sick sheep is a dead sheep. That is a true/false question on my day one quiz in sheep production. The reason that saying has developed is that, when observing them, most people do not realize when sheep first become sick. Sheep flock together and do not express symptoms as readily as other species. Therefore we as shepherds

must hone our skills of observation.

One of my farm managers tells the story that his undergraduate employees had gone to the pasture to check the cows. Upon the students' return he asked if everything was okay. The students answered yes things were fine.

However, the manager had checked the pasture earlier in the day and found a dead calf. It had been dead for a day or two. He sent the students back out with a shovel to bury the dead calf that they had seen on the earlier pasture check.

This story is to emphasize that we must focus our senses when we are checking the sheep for health status. If we are preoccupied with the World Series, the Cyclone football team or financial problems then early detection of problems in the sheep flock will be missed. This failure to treat early, often results in poor response to treatments given later, so that a sick sheep does become a dead sheep. It is not the sheep's fault but ours as shepherds for not making an early detection and treatment of the illness.

Corn Stalk Grazing

Hopefully the weather will straighten up so that corn harvest can get wrapped and grazing of stalks begins before late gestation. With all the moisture this fall, corn stalks will have less nutrient density. We may need to begin supplementing both energy and corn sooner. How quickly we need to supplement energy will depend on how much corn is on the ground. Protein needs will be higher

as ewes move into late gestation and early supplementation with a pound of legume hay may be advisable.

Over the last several months we have been working very hard to get the Sheep Brands Ration Balancing Software finalized. One issue that has come to my attention is that NRC drastically increased iodine requirements. In the past we have had issues with goiter in lambs which was due to low iodine intake via free choice mineral or trace mineral salt.

If one is carefully following the feeding levels that are suggested on the feed tag, iodine intake is probably short. To overcome this issue, one can use iodized salt (yellow blocks) instead of white salt block to meet the ewe's salt and iodine needs. Classic goiter in newborn lambs has the symptoms of poor wool covering and enlarged thyroid which is located under the jaw in the neck jaw junction. Lambs also are less thrifty and have more difficulty with combating cold stress.

The new NRC has increased Iodine requirements from .1 part per million to .5 PPM for growing sheep. Lactating ewes have a requirement of .8 PPM which takes significantly higher levels of iodine in our mineral mixtures. Trace mineral mixtures with one half ounce intake would need to have at least 250 PPM. Sheep mineral mixtures with one ounce intake would need 125 PPM or .0125% iodine.

COMMERCIAL BREEDING STOCK FOR SALE

Katahdin Ram - Registered Katahdin yearling Ram, RR, Twin born. \$175.00 Tim Lohafer (712) 251-4435. (11/09)

Rams - Dorper and White Dorper rams: registered and commercial, starting at \$350. Ile de France crossbred rams. All rams - hardy/easy care, well muscled, out of season breeding, excellent growth on forage only. S A Mitcham, Crane Creek, 3061 160th Street, Sumner, Iowa 50674, 563-578-5665 (Cell), 321-248-0107 (Fax), sam@netins.net, www.ccdorpers.com. (10/09)

Yearling ram - Tall yearling Dorset ram with papers. Dudley McDowell, Archer. 712-723-5290 (9/09)

Ram Lambs: Four Polypay ram lambs out of University of Wisconsin, West Cyclone and J&S Polypays. Jeff Dufoe. 319-849-9443. (9/09)

Rams, ram lambs, ewes - 3-year-old registered Colored Lincoln ram (\$250), 2009 Natural Lincoln ram lambs (\$125 each), 2-year-old Natural Lincoln ewes (\$250 each), 5-year-old registered Colored Lincoln ewe (\$225), and crossbred Lincoln/Corriedale ram lamb (\$100). More detail available upon request. Digital photos available. Randall Parkin, 1477 Juniper Trail,

Earlham, IA 50072. 515-462-1034. RanDesigns@aol.com (9/09)

Rams - Large framed yearling RR Suffolk Ram. Also fast growing, heavy muscled spring ram lambs: QR and RR. Paul Eness, 3081 390th St., Dayton, IA 50530. 515-547-2302 or 515-291-3106, eness@lvcta.com. (8/09)

Rams - Registered Hamp yearlings and ram lambs at reasonable prices. Gene typed rams that will perform for commercial or show flocks. Rams can be delivered at breeding time. Mickelson Hamps, Perry, Iowa 515-229-2182. (8/09)

Ewes, Ewe Lamb and Ram Lambs - Five registered Rambouillet ewes, age 2 years to 4 year old. \$150 each. One registered ewe lamb, \$150 and three registered Rambouillet ram lambs, \$300 each. Excellent wool producers. Call Joe Sawyer at 515-975-6122. (8/09)

Free listing for ISIA members. Ads must be limited to 50 words and will run in four issues (date in parenthesis indicates first issue). Ads may be re-submitted for an additional four months at a time. Send ad information along with name, address, phone and email to the ISIA office at 5771 230th St., Sibley, IA 51249, or info@iowasheep.com.

ISIA Board Meets at Doliver State Park

The Iowa Sheep Industry Association board meeting at Doliver State Park was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by President Steve Bernhard on September 20, 2009. Board members present were: Ben Johnson, Steve Bernhard, Erlene Leonard, Gary Erickson, Leland Shipley, Jim Timmins, Larry Daniels, Dan Morrical and Executive Director Marsha Spykerman.

Motion made, seconded and approved (MMSA) to approve the minutes of the July meeting.

Erlene gave the treasurer's report. MMSA to acknowledge the treasurer's report as presented by Erlene

Marsha gave the director's report. She worked on getting new cargo trailer ready for fair, filed Wool Trust Report, newsletter, worked on Iowa Wool Gatherers' Retreat, and attended the Veterinary Diagnostic Production Animal Medicine meeting and the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Committee. She also ran the foodstand at the Iowa State Fair. Marsha told the board that her plans are to retire the end of June in 2010 or 2011, but will be available for advice, if wanted.

ISU report was given by Dan. He said there was a five to ten percent mid-term cut and fifty million dollar cut at ISU. There are 822 under graduate animal science students and over 3,000 Ag students. ISU lost three field specialists due to reorganization and there will be more cuts next year. Winter sheep extension programming will probably be via computer.

Iowa Wool Gatherers' Retreat was dis-

cussed. MMSA to help with expenses not covered up to \$500.

The meeting was recessed about noon for a delicious potluck dinner with leg of lamb and grilled lamb burgers. The meal was enjoyed by the board and family members.

Thank you to Judy Timmins and Sharon Erickson for grilling the lamb burgers for the meal. Meeting resumed after dinner.

MMSA to give \$100 to the ISU Meat Evaluation contest.

MMSA to pay \$63.20 to Marsha for excess minutes used during the state fair on her personal cell phone.

ISIA's big grill needs some maintenance. Chris volunteered to have it checked out to see if the tubes need replacing and to get a Y hose installed so both tanks can be used at same time.

MMSA to pay ASI dues early and take advantage of the 2% early pay discount

MMSA to send Executive Director to ASI Annual meeting and pay all of her expenses.

MMSA to pay registration fee for voting delegate and expenses for three days in excess of amount paid by ASI for voting delegates.

MMSA to nominate Dan Morrical for the ASI Campender Award and Bob Kimm for the ASI McClure Silver Ram Award.

The board would like for Marsha to attend the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine meeting in Des Moines because IBVM is again trying to eliminate the use of ultrasound technicians for fetal scanning. Marsha was instructed to con-

tact the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Karey Claghorn. ISIA opposes such a change in the Administrative Rules. Marsha is also to contact IBVM and ask for a draft of the new Administrative Rules proposal.

Discussion was held on seeking a new Executive Director when Marsha retires. Goals are to have job description revised by December and place on website when job is advertised in January; applications due in February; interview in March and introduce director at board meeting in April, with proposed starting date of July 1st.

Discussion was held on establishing a Midwest Sheep Center and a committee was put together with Larry as chair. Other members are: Dan, Steve, Leland, Ben and Chris. An invitation will also be issued to Dennis DeWitt.

MMSA to reimburse Larry for gate fees he paid to kids entering the Iowa Junior Extravaganza at the Festival.

MMSA to sign a three year contract with the Dallas County Fairboard to secure the fairgrounds for the Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival each year.

MMSA to set the Iowa Sheep Industry Association Annual meeting for June 12, 2010 at the Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

MMSA to give Marsha an office supply reimbursement.

The next meeting will be a conference call meeting on November 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Erickson, Secretary



Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board held conference call

The Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board meeting was held October 15, 2009 via conference call. Those present: Dave Hofland; Daniel Schmitt; Mary Esther Pullin; Bob Kimm; Sid Greiner; Dan (Rocky) Anderson; Justin Petersen; David Arieux; Dan Morrical, ISU Extension; Marsha Spykerman, ISIA Executive Director and Jean Van Houweling, ISWPB Executive Secretary. Dave called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Motion Made, Seconded and Approved (MMSA) to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2009 meeting as mailed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. MMSA to approve the treasurer's report.

Marsha emailed her director's report to board members. She discussed her activities over the past few months.

Marsha attended the Iowa Veterinary Medicine Board listening session in Spencer regarding the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine's proposed changes to Chapter 8 of the Iowa Administrative Rules. Also, IBVM is in the process of proposing amendments to Chapter

12. Chapter 8 deals with veterinary technicians and assistants and Chapter 12 deals with Standards of Practice. She discussed how the proposed changes could affect sheep producers. Marsha also reported that profits were down at the Iowa State Fair food stand from last year. She is also making preparations for the Iowa Wool Gatherers' Retreat at the Barn on the Bluff, Elkader, Iowa. Marsha informed the board that she plans to retire the end of June 2010. ISIA is in the process of doing a job description update. Bob said, "Hats off to Marsha for

a job well done."

The following funding requests were approved: #589 Iowa Make It With Wool Contest. Discussion followed a review of the proposal. Marsha had an updated financial report that was emailed to her by Katie Olson, State MIWW Director. Following a revision of the funding request the proposal was approved. #590 ISU Extension Northwest Iowa "Lamb Feedlot" meeting for December 14, 2009. #591 ISU Extension Northwest Iowa "Managing Inputs to Reduce Reproductive Slippage" on January 9, 2009. Four follow-up reports were received and reported on by Jean.

The next conference call meeting will be held January 28, 2010 at 7 p.m. Motion and second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Jean Van Houweling,
Executive Secretary



Observe rams daily to identify problems early

WINTERING

Continued from page 1
disease and infertility. Below is a short description of ram health concerns that arise during winter.

FIGHTING INJURIES – Injury to the brain, fractures of the neck vertebrae and broken ribs can occur during early winter when rams are initially penned together. As stated above, rams should be penned in smaller, more confined spaces when introduced to one another. Rams with head and neck injuries will often have a wide-based and wobbly stance. Although anti-inflammatory drugs may be beneficial, always contact your veterinarian for defining a suitable treatment for ram injuries.

FROSTBITE – Extended exposure to extremely cold weather may result in frost bite to the scrotum. If the surface of the scrotum becomes wet, ice crystals can form, accelerating the process. Depending upon the degree of frostbite injury, short or long-term infertility may result. If frostbite does occur, the scrotum should be warmed in 104 to 106°F water, and antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs should be used as needed. Necrotic scrotal tissue should

also be removed to aid in the healing process.

PIZZLE ROT – Also referred to as ‘sheath rot’ is a condition caused by an interaction between local bacteria and excess urinary urea. Rams consuming excess dietary protein (rations greater than 18% CP) will have alkaline urine that has higher levels of urea. Rams with severe pizzle rot will show signs of abdominal discomfort, walk stiffly, strain while urinating and may have a swollen prepuce. The urine of an affected ram will appear thick or semi-solid. Rams with this condition should receive less dietary protein and be treated with long lasting antibiotics after contacting a veterinarian. In addition, the sheath can be cleansed with an antiseptic solution.

EPIDIDYMITIS – Epididymitis or inflammation of the epididymis is caused by injury to the testicle or a bacterial infection. In older rams, this condition is most commonly caused by *Brucella ovis*, which can be confirmed with an ELISA. Flocks infected with *B. ovis* can experience a 15 to 30% decrease in lambing rate when compared to uninfected flocks, so it is best to cull *B. Ovis* carrier rams. In younger rams, a number

of different organisms can cause epididymitis. In both ram age groups, the condition should be treated with long-acting antibiotics after contacting a veterinarian.

URINARY CALCULI – Also called ‘water belly’ this disease occurs when phosphate salt stones become lodged in the urinary tract and prevent urination. Second to wether lambs, younger intact males are the most prone. Young rams will appear restless, anxious and in pain. In valuable ram lambs, surgical intervention should be the first choice of treatment. Prevention involves maintaining proper calcium to phosphorus ratio (2:1), maintaining high water consumption, or including ammonium chloride in the ration at 0.5%.

In summary, a well balanced ration that meets the needs of your mature and growing rams is very important for maximizing fertility and longevity. Keeping rams housed in an area that provides daily observation will allow you to quickly identify and treat problems as they arise.

Maintaining a close working relationship with your local veterinarian will aid in the ram care process.

Want to be included in the new Farm Fresh Directory?

The last printing of the Iowa Farm Fresh Lamb Producers Directory was in 2005, with updates being placed on our website. It's time for a reprint. Distribution of this directory takes place at the Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival, the Lamb Foodstand at the Iowa State Fair and many other locations. If you would like to be included in this printing, please send the following information to info@iowasheep.com or mail to ISIA, 5771 230th St., Sibley, IA 51249.

■ Name, Address, County, Phone number, email address, website.

■ Do you sell locker lambs and/or direct market consumer ready cuts?

■ Any specialty like brats, jerky, etc?

To be included in this directory, you must be a member of the Iowa Sheep Industry Association and send your information by December 31, 2009. ISIA may edit your information based on space limitations.

Ultrasound Fetal Scanning Update

BY: MARSHA SPYKERMAN

On October 29 I attended the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine (IBVM) meeting in Des Moines. The board was completing its review of proposed changes to Chapter 12 of the Administrative Rules titled Standards of Practice. I was able to express concern on the behalf of sheep producers specifically on 12.6(3) Pregnancy diagnosis. Which states: “Diagnosis of pregnancy, either by manual or mechanical means, is included in the practice of veterinary medicine.”

Our concern is whether this new section would prevent anyone except a veterinarian from performing the completely non-invasive procedure of

ultrasound scanning for fetal counts and when I asked that question, the board members seemed unsure how to answer. Dr. David Schmitt, State Veterinarian who serves at the secretary for IBVM, explained that ultrasound technicians are already prevented from doing fetal counts and that is covered within Chapter 169 of the Code of Iowa. If so, why then, is it necessary to add section 12.6(3) to the Administrative Rules?

I shared that sheep and goat producers use this technology to help determine the feed needs for ewes and does depending on the number of fetus she is carrying and that while most

veterinarians have equipment for ultrasound to determine pregnancy they do not have the more expensive equipment to accurately count fetus. This is a service we need and without experienced ultrasound technicians we will not have access to this technology.

The board discussed the possibility getting an order from ones veterinarian to use an ultrasound technician. At this point Tom Johnson, Executive Director of the Iowa Veterinary Medicine Association (IVMA), reminded the board of IVMA's position (that this should be a veterinarian only practice) and suggested the board consult

their attorney because of the case that is before the courts regarding an ultrasound technician.

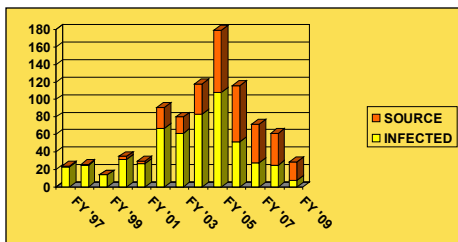
Chris Gruenhagen from Farm Bureau stated that it would add another layer of cost for producers and that a different interpretation of the Code allows for owners of livestock to hire ultrasound technicians to work within their profession.

The IBVM will consider Chapter 12 again at their November 19 meeting. It is an open meeting and anyone interested in attending is encouraged to do so. Please contact the Iowa Sheep Industry Association at 712-736-2109 or info@iowasheep.com.

Scrapie Program Update

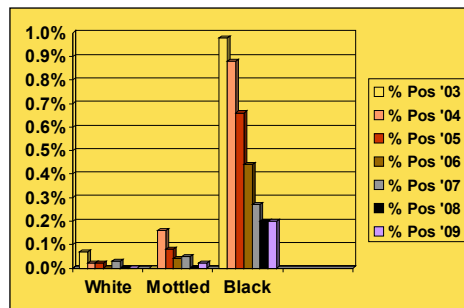
BY: DR. PAM SMITH

At the United States Animal Health Association Annual Meeting, Dr. Diane Sutton, the National Scrapie Eradication Program Coordinator, announced that we are continuing to make good progress at eliminating scrapie from U.S. flocks. At the time data was collected there had been a 33% decrease in the number of scrapie infected and source flocks found as compared to the same time period the year before. The diagram below shows the number of infected and source flocks found by year (through 7-31-09). The current eradication program began in November, 2001.



Iowa continues to make good progress, due in great part to the excellent participation of our sheep producers, sheep dealers, and markets with the sheep identification requirements. The use of flock ID ear tags allows us to trace infected sheep found through slaughter surveillance back to their flocks of birth (source flocks) and any flocks where they may have lambed (infected flocks). Identification, slaughter surveillance, and tracing of infected animals are the key elements that make scrapie eradication successful here in Iowa. We continue to find new infected and source flocks in Iowa, with seven found in Fiscal Year 2009, bringing us to a total of 70 infected and source flocks found in Iowa since the program began in 2001.

The majority of scrapie-infected sheep found through slaughter surveillance continue to be black-face sheep. The following shows scrapie-infected sheep found at slaughter by face color, over the last seven years. The incidence of scrapie in mottled-face sheep is now not significantly higher than that of white-face sheep, and as a result of this finding the sampling criteria was revised last year to include more white-face sheep.



It is unfortunate that our funding in Iowa for Genetic Testing of Rams for Scrapie Resistance was discontinued, but it appears that most producers are now aware that using an RR ram can greatly reduce their flock's risk of Scrapie infection. Our website now lists many producers who have RR rams for sale: www.IowaAgriculture.gov.

Thank you to all of our Iowa sheep producers for helping to make this program a continued success. It is obvious that the elimination of Scrapie from the U.S. is still quite a ways down the road from us, but we are on the right track and making good progress.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns: Dr. Pam Smith (515) 669-5633 or Pamela.Smith@IowaAgriculture.gov.

State Meat Inspection

As of August 13, 2007, twenty-seven states had meat inspection programs for products produced and sold within their states. State meat inspection standards must be "at least equal to" federal standards.

Most state inspection programs duplicate USDA standards. Yet despite the equality in standards (with USDA), state-inspected meat may not sell in interstate commerce.

Recently, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced it would publish proposed regulations to implement a new voluntary cooperative program under which selected state-inspected facilities would be eligible to ship meat and poultry products across state lines. These proposed regulations can be found at: www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2008-0039.pdf.

Currently the proposal is in a comment period. Comments must be received on or before Monday, November 16 through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov/ or by mail to FSIS Docket Room, USDA, FSIS, OPPD, Docket Clearance Unit, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Stop 5272, Beltsville, MD 20705. All comments must identify FSIS and the docket number FSIS-2008-0039.

Posted on *Shepherds Notebook* by Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist for University of Maryland Extension.

Feedlot Meeting to Focus on Cost of Gain and Feedlot Diseases

BY: BETH ELLEN DORAN,
ISU EXTENSION BEEF PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Cost of gain and feedlot diseases in lambs impact producer profitability. Both are featured topics at a Lamb Feedlot Meeting for area producers and agribusiness professionals on December 14 in Orange City. The meeting will be from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 2 of the Downtown Orange City Health System.

"Producers should look at more than the cost of the ration," stated Dr. Jeff Held, Extension Sheep Specialist at South Dakota State University. "Cost of gain is more important." Dr. Held's presentation, "Optimizing Lamb Growth Performance with Co-Product Based Diets," looks at cost of gain and what influences it. He will not only discuss the use of dried distillers grains with solubles in corn- and soy-hull-based diets, but also the effect of market weight on feed efficiency and market lamb profitability.

"Lamb producers are interested in how to reduce lamb health problems and eliminate death losses. We are excited to have Dr. Larry Holler, Professor of Veterinary Science at South Dakota State University and nationally recognized expert on lamb health, at the meeting," remarked Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist and meeting coordinator. Dr. Holler will visit about common feedlot diseases - respiratory, foot rot and urinary calculi - and ways to improve management to reduce sickness and mortality. Both Dr. Holler and Held will share results of their study looking at lung lesions in feedlot lambs.

The Lamb Feedlot Meeting is co-sponsored by Iowa State University Extension, Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board, Iowa Sheep Industry Association and the Northwest Iowa Sheep Producers.

Registration for the meeting is \$10/person and due Dec. 9 at the Sioux County Extension Office, 400 Central Ave. NW, Suite 700, Orange City IA 51041.

For more information about the meeting, contact Beth Doran at 712-737-4230 or doranb@iastate.edu.

Calendar of Events

■ **Dec 4 - 5** - Missouri Livestock Symposium at Kirksville, Missouri. Excellent line up of sheep education seminars in addition to goats, beef, equine, stock dogs, forage, renewable resources and more. For more information visit www.missourilivestock.com or call 660- 665-9866. No pre-registration or registration fees are associated with attending the symposium programs or trade show.

■ **Dec. 14** - Lamb Feedlot Meeting, 7:00-9:30 p.m. Room 2 - Downtown Orange City Health System, 400 Central Ave. NW, Orange City, Iowa. Registration (\$10/person) due Dec. 9. For information, contact Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist, at 712-737-4230 or doranb@iastate.edu.

■ **December 15** - Deadline for submitting funding requests to the Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board to be reviewed at their January 28, 2010 meeting. For more information contact: Jean Van Houweling, Executive Secretary, PO Box 35633, Des Moines, IA 50315. Email j.vanhouweling@mchsi.com

■ **January 9, 2010** - Tentative date for the Northwest Iowa Sheep Producers Annual meeting, Community Center, Sanborn, Iowa. Leg of Lamb Dinner. Watch for more details and speaker information in the December Lamb & Wool newsletter.

■ **January 20 - 23, 2010** - ASI/NLFA Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee. Details and registration information are available at the ASI website www.sheepusa.org and in upcoming issues of ASI's Sheep Industry News.

■ **June 12 - 13** - 6th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival, Dallas County Fairgrounds, Adel, Iowa. Check at www.iowasheep.com for details and schedules as they become available.

Do you have an event that you would like to place in the Lamb & Wool newsletter? Please send information by the 15th of the month preceding publication date of newsletter. Submit via email at info@iowasheep.com or phone 712-736-2109.



BJ Hofman, Windsor Heights, Iowa, is shown grilling up his entries at the 2009 Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival. BJ placed 1st and 3rd at the 2007 festival cookoff. Recipes for his entries this year follow.

More Great Lamb Recipes from the Festival Cook-off

The following recipes are the creation of BJ Hofman from Windsor Heights, IA.

Tandori Lamb Burgers

- 2 pounds ground lamb
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 Tbsp. garlic
- 3 Tbsp. Tandori seasoning
- 2 Cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 8 Flour tortillas

Mix all ingredients except tortillas and form into 1/4 pound patties. Grill over direct heat until temperature reaches 165°F. Grill tortillas on grill. Place burgers on grilled tortillas and serve open faced. *Tip* The Tandori seasoning dyes the meat and the clear liquid appears to be bloody. This burger

can be easily overcooked so be sure to use a thermometer.

Gyro Party Starters

- 2 pounds ground lamb
 - 3 Tbsp. Penzey's Greek Seasoning
 - 2 cucumbers, cut into 1/4 inch slices
 - 1 loaf party bread
 - 3 cups Ted's Coney Tzatziki Sauce
- Mix Greek seasoning with ground lamb.

Form into one inch meatballs. Place on grill and cook until temperature reaches 165°F. Place snack bread on tray and lay slices of cucumber on bread. Place meatballs on top of cucumbers. Pipe Tzatziki sauce on top of meatballs. *Tip* If ground lamb is very lean, add two egg whites to help bind the mixture.

The Lamb & Wool Newsletter, a publication of the Iowa Sheep Industry Association, is published 11 times each year with partial funding from the Iowa Sheep & Wool Promotion Board.

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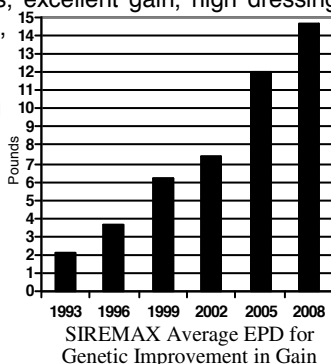
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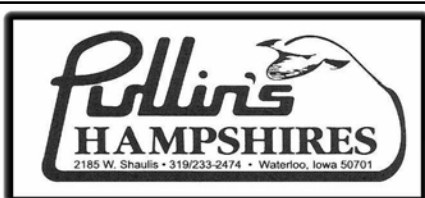
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